Demonstration by refugees from Afghanistan

3660. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Hindu and Sikh refugees from Afghanistan have held a demonstration and staged dharna outside the office of the United Nations Development Programme Office in Golf Links, New Delhi to protest against the United Nations' double standards on the treatment of refugees from the same country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action so far taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government are aware that Afghan nationals who have come to India in recent months have approached UNHCR seeking refugee status and that UNHCR is processing their requests. Government are of the view that all possible assistance is rendered to mitigate the hardships faced by these displaced Afghan nationals. This has been conveyed to UNHCR and to the Afghan Government.

Replacing Indo-Sri Lanka accord

3661. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what were the salient features of the 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan agreement;

(b) whether the Sri Lankan President Mr. F. Premadasa has made any suggestions to replace the agreement;

(c) if so, what are the details of these suggestions;

(d) what are the reasons put forth by the Sri Lankan President for replacement of the agreement; and

(e) what is the reaction of Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) The Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement to establish Peace and Normalcy in Sri Lanka was signed on 29th July, 1987. The Agreement aimed at preserving the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka; nurturing, intensifying and strengthening the traditional friendship between India and Sri Lanka; resolving the ethnic problem of Sri Lanka; and ensuring the safety, well-being and prosperity of people belonging to all communities in Sri Lanka. The text of the Agreement was placed on the Table of the House on 31st July, 1987.

(b) to (e) The Sri Lankan President Mr. R. Premadasa has not made any suggestions to replace the Agreement. However, in March 1989, the Government of Sri Lanka forwarded to the Government of India a draft Friendship Treaty between India and Sri Lanka, which contained a provision for supersession of the letters exchanged alongwith the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement on 29th July, 1987. Government of India forwarded its counter-draft for the proposed Treaty to the Government of Sri Lanka in January, 1990. Of late, no official discussions have taken place on this issue.

Economic agreements with Iran

3662. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Iran have recently signed some economic agreements; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The Sixth Session of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission was held on November 10-11, 1992 at New Delhi. Upon conclusion of the deliberations of the Joint

Commission, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed. This MOU contains decisions taken by the two sides to expand and to further develop bilateral cooperation in various sectors including trade industry, agriculture, transportation and culture.

Protection of interests of Indian citizens working in Gulf-Countries

3663. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the Gulf war, thousands of Indian citizens had to flee from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq leaving back their valuables without receiving their legitimate dues from their employers; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken by Government to protect the interests of these citizens in regard to their property and claim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In regard to evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq, Government have set up a Special Kuwait Cell in MEA which is collecting information in the prescribed UN compensation Claim forms which will be lodged with the UN Compensation Commission in Geneva. The first batch of such claims has already been sent to Geneva in December 1992 and the remaining claims when correctly completed in the prescribed forms, will also be forwarded. Government have agreed with the Government of Kuwait in 1991 to facilitate the recovery of assets left behind in Kuwait by means of a Power of Attorney, which in Arabic and English, had been given wide publicity.

Regarding Saudi Arabia, our Embassy have provided assistance when requested to a number of Indian nationals for settlement of their dues from their employers and regarding the property they had left behind.

As a result of Government's diplomatic efforts, majority of Indian nationals have already gone back to Kuwait.

पंजाब और जम्मू-कश्मीर में आतंकवाद के प्रति अमरीकी दृष्टिकोण

3664. **श्री अनन्त राम जायसवाल:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अमरीका सरकार ने इस तथ्य को स्वीकार किया है कि पाकिस्तान कश्मीर और पंजाब के आतंकवादियों को प्रशिक्षण, हथियार और धन उपलब्ध करा रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) क्या भारत सरकार ने अमरीका द्वारा पाकिस्तान को उग्रवादी/आतंकवादी देश घोषित करने के लिये कोई कार्यवाही की है, यदि हां, तो कब और इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एडुआर्डो फेलेरियो): (क) और (ख) पैटर्न ऑफ ग्लोबल टैररिज्म 1991 पर अमरीका के विदेश विभाग ने प्रकाशित की गई अपनी रिपोर्ट में यह कहा था कि: "1991 के वर्ष भर ऐसी विश्वसनीय रिपोर्टें मिलती रही हैं कि भारत-नियंत्रित कश्मीर में आतंकवाद में लगे कश्मीरी सैन्य ग्रुपों और भारत के पंजाब क्षेत्र में आतंकवाद में लगे सिख उग्रवादी ग्रुपों को भी पाकिस्तान की ओर से सरकारी तौर पर मदद मिलती रही है। इस मदद में कथित रूप से शस्त्र और प्रशिक्षण की व्यवस्था शामिल है।"

(ग) पंजाब और जम्मू तथा कश्मीर में आतंकवाद को पाकिस्तान के समर्थन पर सरकार ने अमरीका की सरकार को बार-बार अपनी गंभीर चिन्ता से अवगत कराया है। सरकार ने अमरीका की सरकार को भारत में आतंकवादी ग्रुपों के साथ पाकिस्तान के होने के विस्तृत साक्ष्य भी उपलब्ध कराए हैं।